ing/Super Star Trading House. Transitional arrangements are provided to provisionally recognise export/ Trading/Star Trading/Super Star Trading House for a 6 month period during which they can seek renewal/ up gradation of their status. The Export/Trading/Star Trading/Super Star Trading House status holders will also be allowed to import one/ two/three/five cars(s) respectively as a one-time facility.

15. The scope of importability of items against Special Import Licence granted to Export/Trading/Star Trading House and manufacturer exporters with ISO 9000 or BIS 14000 certification is being increased so as to render the scheme more attractive.

16. One time import of cars is now permitted to Export Houses/Trading Houses/Star Trading Houses/Super Star Trading Houses on payment of customs duty in free foreign exchange from their EEPC Account so that they are able to service the visiting business delegations better.

17. In the case of Import of Gold and Silver against the above category, its imports are now permitted on payment of concessional rate of Customs Duty from their EEPC Account.

18. Rate of entitlement of Special Import Licence has been enhanced for Export/Trading/Star Trading House. Deemed Exporters who do not avail of the facility of the Duty Exemption Scheme shall also be entitled for Special Import Licences at the rate of 5% of FOR value of supply.

19. Import of second-hand capital goods having a residual life of minimum of 5 years may be imported by all Actual Users without a licence.

20. Physically hadicapped persons may now import cars specially designed for them subjects to conditions laid down.

Contingency plan to increase Exports

4299. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to formulate a contingency plan to increase exports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Export Promotion is a continuous process and efforts are made to create an environment congenial for increase in exports on a continuing basis. In consultation with trade promotion organisations, such as Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards annual export targets are fixed keeping the export prospects in view. During 1993-94, an export growth target of about 20% in dollar terms was fixed which is likely to be achieved.

Tobacco Production

4300. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco production has registered an increase during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that after the disintegration of the USSR the tobacco production suffered great loss as the USSR was the main buyer of our tobacco;

(c) the extent of increase in tobacco production during 1992-93;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government had suggested to the tobacco producers to switchover to other crops;

(e) whether it is a fact that the tobacco crop is likely to be reduced during 1993 and 1994;

(f) the total tobacco exported during 1992-93, 1993-94 and likely to be imported during 1994-95 and the names of the States where the tobacco crop has been changed; and

(g) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to impose Luxury Tax on tobacco products in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) and (e) The FCV tobacco production in the country and the quantities purchased by the e.stwhile USSR (now CIS)

during the last three yean are given below:—

Year	Production (M. kg.)	Quantity purchased (packed wt. in M. kg.)
1991-92 .	159.19	14.069
1992-93 .	158.86	21.125
1993-94 .	127.93 (Estimated)	30.304 (Provisional)

(d) Yes, Sir. For the 1993-94 FCV crop in-A.P. farmers were advised to switchover to alternative crops.

(f) Unmanufactured tobacco exports in 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given below:—

Year	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
1992-93 .	81,294	434.41
1993-94 (Prov.) .	88,818	393.98

For 1993-94 Tobacco Board had fixed a reduced FCV tobacco crop size for Andhra Pradesh.

(g) No, Sir.

Australian Delegation for Promoting Trade and Economic Cooperation

4301. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dy. Prime Minister of Australia along with a delega tion visited India recently to promote trade and economic cooperation with India;

(b) if so, whether Government have signed any trade agreement with the Australian delegation;

(c) if so, the details of the agreement and terms and conditions settled with each other; and

(d) the extent to which India is likely to be benefitted by the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir. However, Deputy Premier of Western Australia had visited India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Export of Cigarettes from Andhra Pradesh

4302. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state':

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has given any suggestions for increasing exports of cigarettes and other value added tobacco items from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) expectations in this regard in 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Measures taken to boost export cigarettes and other tobacco products include:—

1. Undertaking trade promotion measures such as aggressive publicity in overseas markets, participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad, trade delegation to importing countries etc.
2. Promoting export oriented units for export of cigarettes.
3. Permitting foreign investment in cigarette industry mainly for export of cigarettes.
4. Encouraging manufacturers to establish warehouses in CIS countries for stock and sale of cigarettes.
5. Permitting cigarette manufacturers to import various items with a view to « enable them to undertake product development.

(c) No item-wise target has been fixed.

Energy saving Tobacco curing Barns m Andhra Pradesh

4303. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tobacco Board has made any efforts to make all